

Minutes of Russell Horticultural Society Meeting
Monday, January 20th, 2020

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 with 35 people in attendance.

Newly elected President, Grace Stapper welcomed everyone including the new attendees: Madeline Kalinowski (Madeline was previously a member of the Horticultural Society in the Carlsbad Springs area which recently amalgamated with Ottawa) and Ann McDonald from Russell.

Two new members of the executive were also in attendance: Manja Bastian, our Co-Treasurer (who will be act as Treasurer for this term along with Peter Van Die) and Julie Keravel, our new Director.

Motion was made by Marianne Vedder to accept the minutes of the November 2019 meeting as presented; seconded by Linda DuHamel. Voted on and passed.

Acknowledgement of Christmas cards received from Charles Freeman, Vice-President, Ontario Horticultural Society and from Pierre Leroux, Mayor, Township of Russell.

Lindley McPhail reported on the Living Locally Fair held on Saturday, January 18th, 2020. This 12th edition of the Fair was very well received with approximately 4,000-5,000 attendees. Allowable exhibitors are broken down into the following categories: 50% Food and Farmers; 25% Artisans; 25% Health and Wellness, Environmentally Friendly and Community Groups - with a total number of exhibitors for 2020 being 102. There is a waiting list for next year's Fair. Approximately \$5,000.00 was raised through exhibitor booth rentals. This fee is waived for the following groups: Russell Agricultural Society, Sew & Grow (Spread the Joy); Russell Lions Club (the Lions Club made a very large donation to McDougall Park Bridge); Russell Township; Russell Meadows (hall rental is free for our monthly meetings) and Poppa Bean Coffee (Paul provides us with the machines and coffee for the day of the Fair which resulted in a profit of \$179.75). Exhibitors come from as far away as Quebec to Perth. This event would not be possible without the joint involvement of St. Thomas Aquinas High School. A letter will be written to the school board expressing our appreciation and passing on some of the positive comments received from the exhibitors and the public. Special thanks to Ann Jackson, teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas and the volunteer students. Carole Van Die thanked all the Horticultural Society members who volunteered at the Fair. Marianne Vedder, Margaret Helliker and Cindy Saucier made suggestions that there be better signage for next year's event indicating that there were two locations of exhibitors and showing where the hospitality room was located. Lindley McPhail asked for volunteers for next year's event to help advise the attendees of the locations, etc.

Carol Van Die reported that invoices from Beyond the House had been received for the maintenance of the gardens at the Russell Public Library and McDougall Park. Many thanks to Beyond the House for being such a great supporter of the Russell Horticultural Society. It was noted that they gave us a discount of \$1200.00.

Pegi Holtz made everyone aware of the passing of Pat Stachon on Sunday, January 19th. Pat was a very valuable and active member of the Russell Horticultural Society acting as President and serving on the executive for many years. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Metcalfe Curling Club on Sunday, February 9th, 2020.

President, Grace Stapper reported that the Russell Horticultural Society is one society of 19 across Ontario. Peter and Carole Van Die have applied for the OMAFRA grant on behalf of our Society. Grace reminded everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours worked on behalf of our Society which is required to make this application. She also mentioned that the District 1 Annual General Meeting will be held on April 18th in Cornwall. The Annual Convention of the Ontario Horticultural Society will be held from July 17th-19th in London, Ontario. The Annual meeting of the Executive of the Russell Horticultural Society will be held on February 1st.

Marilyn McMillan reported that a sign-up sheet asking for volunteers to supply to refreshments for the meetings of 2020 would be circulated.

Thanks to Gloria Biickert for providing the refreshments for this meeting.

The business portion of the meeting concluded and Pegi Holtz introduced Ivan Garland of Garland Sugar Shack of Vars who gave a very interesting talk on the production of maple syrup. (A video was shown of their establishment. If anyone is interested in viewing it, it can be found on YouTube - Garland Sugar Shack.)

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Johnston
Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society